

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01

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R 170533Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9112

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USDEL JEC PARIS

UNCLAS SAIGON 19621

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BAC TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE.

1. IN HIS FIRST OFFICIAL APPEARANCE SINCE BECOMING FOREIGN MINISTER, VUONG VAN BAC TOLD THE SENATE BUDGET, FINANCE AND TAXATION AND THE INFORMATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES ON NOVEMBER 166 THAT THE GVN WOULD PURSUE AN ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY DURING THE COMING YEAR. HE TOLD THE SENATORS THAT A STEPPED UP FOREIGN INFORMATION EFFORT WAS REQUIRED TO COUNTER VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS' PROPAGANDA ABROAD AND TO PREVENT THE VIET CONG FROM GAINING RECOGNITION FOR THEIR SO-CALLED PRG FROM ADDITIONAL FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

2. BAC AVERRED THAT HENCEFORTH THE GVN MUST SEEK, ON ITS OWN, INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT BY "EXPANDING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO MANY MORE COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY TO THE NON-ALIGNED BLOC." INTENSIFIED DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ARE ALSO NECESSARY TO GAIN MORE FOREIGN AID, HE SAID.

3. BAC PROPOSED A FOREIGN MINISTRY BUDGET OF NEARLY 6.5 BILLION PIASTRES (ABOUT US \$12,150,000) FOR 1974, WHICH HE SAID WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 1.6 BILLION (ABOUT \$3 MILLION) OVER 1973.

BAC SAID THE 1974 BUDGET "INDICATES THE SAVING TENDENCY" BECAUSE MUCH OF THE PROPOSED INCREASE RESULTS FROM BOOSTS IN LIVING COSTS AND UNFAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EXCHANGE RATE.

4. IN OTHER COMMENTS, BAC: REAFFIRMED THE GVN'S DESIRE TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUSTALKS AT LA CELLE ST. CLOUD; STATED THAT CHIEFS OF RVN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ABROAD WOULD "SUPERVISE" ALL ACTIVITIES IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF RESPONSIBILITY "INCLUDING THE INFORMATION SERVICE"; AND ALLUDED TO "VARIOUS SIGNS " INDICATING A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IN INDIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GVN.
APPLING

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NNN

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